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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 22, 1979

ACTION
is assigned to
ARA

Mr. Douglas J. Bennet
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations
U. S. Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Bennet:

This letter is with reference to my letter to you dated November 27, a copy of which is enclosed, concerning State Department expenditures in Guyana.

Mr. Bennet, to date I have not even received an acknowledgement of my letter to you. Although the timeliness of this issue has passed, I would still appreciate a response from you to my inquiry. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

MILTON R. YOUNG

MRY:m

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GC/DC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE 2/27/81
☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TO RUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

SIGNATURE ... RECEIVED ... FEB 27 ... AM 8 49

RE: STATE DEPT EXPENDITURES IN GUYANA TRAGEDY

(4)

STATE
GENERAL

COPY Cost of returning bodies of People's Temple Cult

November 27, 1978

Mr. Douglas J. Bennet
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations
U. S. Department of State
2201 C Street
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Bennet:

Enclosed are copies of correspondence I have received from constituents in North Dakota, in which they express their outrage over the use of Federal funds to bring back the bodies of members of the People's Temple Cult, who committed suicide in Guyana last week.

Mr. Bennet, I would appreciate receiving a letter from you outlining the reasoning behind the expenditure of Federal funds for this airlift, as well as any plans there might be to liquidate the assets of the People's Temple in order to assist with the cost of the airlift.

I am looking forward to hearing from you about this at your earliest opportunity.

Sincerely yours,

MILTON R. YOUNG

MRY:m
Encls.

1723 - 5th Street South
Fargo, ND 58103

November 24, 1978

The Honorable Milton R. Young
Senator - North Dakota
5205 New Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

We have all been saddened by the news of the massive slayings in Jonestown, Guyana. It is difficult to accept that a leader, such as Reverend Jim Jones, could have such control over his people to bring about the occurrences we hear about.

Yesterday on the 6:00 p.m. CBS news, we learned of the cost to the United States taxpayer to bring back the bodies of the suicide victims. They reported that an average cost is $22,000 per body. On the noon news today we learned that more bodies have been found bringing the current count to 775 or more. We could conceivably be looking at a cost to the United States taxpayers of $17 million.

We vehemently object to the United States taxpayer bearing the sole burden of this cost. We do hope that a tangible effort will be made to liquidate the assets, if neccesary, of the Peoples Temple for them to bear the costs of their apparent mistakes. To protect the separation of church and state which we enjoy in this country, we should not be giving them the advantage of United States tax dollars paying for their mistakes.

Bruce Langness

Bruce & Ramona Langness

DR G B HOYER
722 SOUTHWOOD DR
FARGO ND 58103

Western Union Mailgram

4-019891E330 11/26/78 ICS IPMMTZZ CSP WSHB
7012321788 MGM TDMT FARGO ND 100 11-26 0834P EST

SENATOR MILTON R YOUNG
SENATE OFFICE BLDG
WASHINGTON DC 20510

WE FIND THE EXPEDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS IN THE GUYANA AFFAIR INEXCUSEABLE. OUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF YOUR OFFICE REQUIRES DISCLOSURE OF WHO AUTHORIZED THIS EXPENDITURE.

DR AND MRS GERALD B HOYER
722 SOUTHWOOD DRIVE
FARGO, ND 58103

20:34 EST

MGMCOMP MGM